

Toronto Conservatory of Music

Wednesday Five O'clocks

1946-1947

Programme

of the

Fifth Concert of Chamber Music

Conservatory Concert Hall

Wednesday afternoon, February 12th, 1947

at five o'clock

Quartet in C major, Op. 76, No. 3 (The Emperor) Haydn
(1732-1809)

It is rather pleasing to reflect upon the fact that the hymn which Haydn subsequently used as the basis for the variations of this quartet was written because when in London Haydn noticed the deep feeling created by the singing of "God Save the King". He felt the need of a patriotic song for his own country, and set the poet Haschka's specially commissioned verses to music which, when sung in all the Vienna theatres on the Emperor's birthday, February 12th, 1797, aroused immense enthusiasm. The hymn was one of his own favourites, and there is the touching story that in 1809 (Vienna then having been occupied by Napoleon) Haydn had himself carried to his piano and played the Emperor's Hymn three times over—the last time he touched an instrument. Now, on another February 12th, 150 years since it was composed, the musical world is free to enjoy this masterpiece anew, knowing that the Nazi desecration is ended and yet another art treasure has been restored to civilization.

Quartet in E minor (From My Life) Smetana
(1824-1884)

Bedrich Smetana has been called the Father of Czech National Music. In this quartet, according to the composer's own copious notes, he wished to give a musical description of his career. He says in part:

First movement: "Propensity for art, romantic sentiment, indescribable longing for something I could not express or even definitely imagine, and a foreboding of my coming misery. It was the fateful and incessant sound of the high tone (E) in my ear which announced approaching deafness."

The Polka: "Reminiscences of the merry life of my youth."

"The Largo calls up memories of my first love who afterwards became my faithful wife."

Fourth movement: "Realization of how to treat the national element in music. A joy interrupted by the catastrophe of beginning deafness."

Smetana submitted the quartet to the Prague Chamber Music Society. It was promptly returned as unsuitable for performance "on account of the doubtful style and insurmountable difficulties". Only three years later was it played publicly in Prague, and the following year Liszt arranged a performance in Weimar where the work had a huge success. The famous Bohemian Quartet of a later day placed it in their repertoire and gave thrilling and never-to-be-forgotten performances of it.

Parlow String Quartet

Kathleen Parlow, *1st Violin* Samuel Hersenhoren, *2nd Violin*
Stanley Solomon, *Viola* Isaac Mamott, *Violoncello*

Programme

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Quartet in C major, Op. 76, No. 3 (The Emperor) Haydn

Allegro

Theme and Variations

Menuett

Presto

Quartet in E minor (From My Life) Smetana

Allegro vivo appassionato

Allegro moderato à la Polka

Largo sostenuto

Vivace

Prog - 995
c.1

Sixth Concert of Chamber Music

Gordon Day, Flute

Cornelius Desselstyn, Cello

Greta Kraus, Harpsichord

The Programme will include:

Sonata for Cello and Harpsichord.....Pieter Hellendaal

Partita No. 2 in C minor for Harpsichord.....Johann Sebastian Bach

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 5th, 1947

AT FIVE O'CLOCK